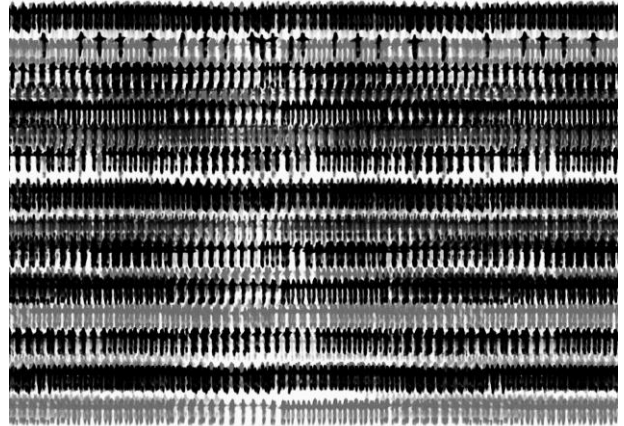


Michal Rovner: Evolution

Quai des Bergues 15-17, 1201, Geneva
30 January – 18 April 2019

Opening Reception:
29 January 2019, 6 – 8 PM



Geneva—Pace is honoured to present the gallery's first exhibition of Michal Rovner's work in Geneva, at Quai des Bergues, from 30 January to 18 April 2019. The exhibition will feature recent works and follow its 2018 presentation at Pace NY. The exhibition will reflect on the theme of evolution in the representations of text.

Since first showcasing her video work at her Whitney Museum of American Art retrospective in 2002, Rovner has pioneered the use of the moving image as a non-narrative, non-cinematic medium for the creation of painterly images and installations which, like painting and sculpture, conjure the timeless realities in a way the narrative arts cannot. Since her landmark exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 2003, Rovner has expanded her innovations in many directions, backward, into the historical realm defined by the ancient stones she used as both medium and context; and forward into technological systems that allow for novel expression of her imagery.

In her oeuvre, Rovner records elements from different places and erases visual information, obscuring specifics of time and place through gestural, abstract qualities and creating a narrative with universal threads.

In Rovner's return to her unique, abstracted language, which consists of duplicated patterns of human movements, she has intensified this visual language. The human figures have lost basic contours, to the point that their humanity becomes difficult to identify. The movement, which apparently repeats itself, has become wilder. The lines, structures and patterns change more rapidly and recall a sense of urgency and warning that permeate our world.

"Across the works in the exhibition, Rovner presents us with the evolution of hieroglyphic-like, narrative-less 'texts.' At first, they are much more representative, clearer, relatively stable; then they become more rapid, fleeting, hard to grasp, ambiguous, alluding to the intensity and communication overload of a reality that allows us to see everything, from the electronic innards of a computer to brain synapses, a reality of barcodes, control panels, matrix charts, microchips, and the like. While the lines of text still invariably feature human figures, human signs and gestures; reading them is becoming harder and harder. In the end, only the writing remains, as a signifier without the signified, striving to be seen, to sparkle, flash, stand out, as if the ultimate representation of human consciousness is signalling for help." - Yoram Verete.

In *Mechanism* (2018), one of the central pieces of the exhibition, a massive amount of tiny human figures rotate like a cogwheel, becoming part of a large mechanism. "We, ourselves are becoming almost like microchips in a big system, a mechanism of the future" - Michal Rovner

Evolution presented at Pace will coincide with *Michal Rovner: Dislocation*, an exhibition presented at Espace Muraille in Geneva and curated by Laurence Dreyfus.

In 2019, the artist will inaugurate a new large-scale public artwork installed in London's Canary Wharf Crossrail station. It is commissioned by the Canary Wharf Group and the City of London Corporation.

Michal Rovner (b. 1957, Israel) is known for her multimedia practice of drawing, printmaking, video, sculpture, and installation. Her work has and continues to define a new and evocative language of abstraction, broadly addressing themes of history, humanity and time. While generally avoiding specific issues or events, Rovner's work shifts between the poetic and the political, and between current time and historical memory, raising questions of identity, dislocation, and the fragility of human existence.

Rovner has been the subject of over seventy solo exhibitions held at venues including The Art Institute of Chicago (1993); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (1994); Tate Gallery, London (1997); Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri (2001); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2002); and Museo d'arte contemporanea Roma (Al Mattatoio), Rome (2003). In 2003, Rovner was selected to represent Israel at the Venice Biennale where she presented the exhibition *Against Order? Against Disorder?*. In 2005, *Fields* was presented at Jeu de Paume in collaboration with Festival d'Automne à Paris, before traveling to the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in 2006. Other major monographic exhibitions have been held at L'Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris (2011); Musée du Louvre, Paris, (2011); Instituto Cultural Cabañas, Guadalajara, Mexico (2014); and the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow (2015). Rovner was the recipient of the Tel Aviv Museum Award in 1997 and received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2008, Ben-Gurion University in 2015 and Tel-Aviv University in 2016. In 2010 she received the prestigious honour "Knight of the French Order of Arts and Letters". Rovner was recently awarded the 2018 EMET prize in the culture and art category.

Her work is held in numerous collections worldwide, including The Art Institute of Chicago; Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Oświęcim, Poland; Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris; The British Museum, London; The Brooklyn Museum, New York; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; The Jewish Museum, New York; Lambert Art Collection, Geneva; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland; Museo d'arte contemporanea Roma (Al Mattatoio); The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Tel Aviv Museum of Art; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Authority, Jerusalem, among others.

Michal Rovner has been represented by Pace since 2003.

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Under the leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace is a vital force within the art world and plays a critical role in shaping the history, creation, and engagement with modern and contemporary art. Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy for vibrant and dedicated relationships with renowned artists. As the gallery approaches the start of its seventh decade, Pace's mission continues to be inspired by our drive to support the world's most influential and innovative artists and to share their visionary work with people around the world.

Pace advances this mission through its dynamic global program, comprising ambitious exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, and curatorial research and writing. Today, Pace has ten locations worldwide: three galleries in New York; one in London; one in Geneva; one in Palo Alto, California; one in Beijing; two in Hong Kong; and one in Seoul. Pace will open a new flagship gallery in New York, anticipated for completion in fall 2019. In 2016, Pace joined with Futurecity to launch FuturePace—an international cultural partnership innovating multidisciplinary projects for art in the public realm.

Images: Michal Rovner, detail of *Cipher 1 (Mechanism)*, 2018, detail © Michal Rovner, Courtesy The Pace Gallery

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Michal Rovner: Dislocation is presented at Espace Muraille from 31 January to 4 May 2019.
Espace Muraille is located at Place des Casemates 5, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland.

